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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3777th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 May 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Letters dated 20 and 23 December 1991, from France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (S/23306, S/23307, S/23308, S/23309 and S/23317)", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council takes note with concern of reports that Libyan-registered aircraft flew from Libya to Niger on 8 May 1997 and returned to Libya from Nigeria on 10 May in violation of resolution 748 (1992). The Council has requested the Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) to follow up this matter directly with the representatives of Libya, Niger and Nigeria. The Council calls upon all States to fulfil their obligations under resolution 748 (1992) in the event that aircraft flights originating in Libya seek to land in their territory.

"The Security Council takes note of the letters from the Permanent Representative of Libya dated 16 May 1997 (S/1997/373), from the Permanent Representative of Niger, dated 13 May 1997, and the note verbale from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria, dated 15 May 1997. The Security Council recalls that paragraph 4 of resolution 748 (1992) decided that all States shall deny permission to any aircraft to take off from, land in or overfly their territory if it is destined to land in or has taken off from the territory of Libya, unless the particular flight has been approved on grounds of significant humanitarian need by the committee established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the resolution."

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